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### de maximis, inc.

186 Center Street Suite 290 Clinton, NJ 08809 (908) 735-9315 (908) 735-2132 FAX

November 16, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Stephanie Vaughn
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 30 – October 2009 Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Vaughn:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

## (a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

#### **Meetings/Conference Calls**

- On October 2, CPG and EPA held a Lower Passaic River/Newark Bay (LPR/NB) modeling progress call.
- On October 9, CPG, EPA, and Louis Berger/MPI held a conference call to discuss bathymetry data.
- On October 21, CPG, Tierra Solutions and EPA had a meeting to discuss the details and activities of the spring deployment of the Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) Program.

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- On October 28, CPG and EPA held a call to discuss the schedule for CPG to submit the LPR/NB PWCM QAPP as well as specific details of the planned work.
- On October 28, CPG and EPA held a call to discuss the schedule for submittal of the Low Resolution Coring (LRC) Data Summary Report to EPA.
- On October 29, CPG and EPA held a meeting to discuss conducting a new Creel Angler Study (CAS).

#### Correspondence

- On October 5, CPG submitted a revised Hyalella testing SOP and responses to EPA September 29 comments on the draft QAPP for Surface Sediment Chemical Analyses and Benthic Invertebrate Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Testing (Benthic Sampling QAPP).
- On October 6, CPG submitted laboratory QA/QC data for EPA Method 1613B associated with the LRC sediment analyses to EPA in response to a September 24 request.
- On October 7, EPA provided additional comments on the draft Benthic Sampling QAPP to CPG.
- On October 7, EPA approved the PWCM QAPP for the fall 2009 Survey and identified additional requirements and conditions for the spring 2010 Survey.
- On October 8, CPG submitted responses to EPA October 7 comments and revised the draft Benthic Sampling QAPP.
- On October 8, EPA approved the Benthic Sampling QAPP with conditions.
- On October 13, CPG received comments from EPA on the revised Hyalella testing SOP in the Benthic Sampling QAPP.
- On October 13, CPG submitted proposed modifications to the mercury fate & transport modeling for the LPR/Newark Bay Modeling Program to EPA.
- On October 14, CPG submitted Columbia Analytical Services' SOP HRMS-1613B and associated LCS data to EPA.
- On October 15, CPG submitted the September Progress Report to EPA.
- On October 20, CPG submitted a Memorandum on the Evaluation of Tissue and Sediment Data Quality Limits associated with Field Sampling Plan Volume 2 (FSP2) data to EPA.



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- On October 20, CPG submitted the 2007 Passaic River Single-beam unsmoothed dataset for the bathymetry study to EPA.
- On October 20, CPG submitted a Memorandum on High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry Analyses and Exceeding the Calibration Range for FSP2 Tissue and Sediment Data to EPA.
- On October 22, EPA provided its LRC oversight lab's EPA Method 1613B SOP (Axys-MLA-017) to CPG.
- On October 22, CPG submitted additional responses to EPA October 8 comments on the Benthic Sampling QAPP.
- On October 28, EPA provided follow-up questions regarding the LRC split sample results for dioxin/furans.
- On October 28, CPG provided EPA a schedule for the November PWCM survey event.
- On October 28, EPA provided the status of the LPR/NB Modeling Program to CPG.
- On October 29, EPA provided sediment stability information to the CPG.

#### Work

- CPG initiated collection of benthic samples in accordance with the approved Benthic Sampling QAPP on October 8.
- CPG began the fall survey of the PWCM Program on October 10.
- CPG conducted a one-day Mummichog survey with EPA and the Partner Agencies on October 13.
- CPG continued evaluating tissue samples collected during implementation of the fall 2009 Tissue QAPP to develop a proposed sample analysis plan.
- CPG continued drafting the LRC data summary report which includes a
  description of the field activities, submittal of field records, analytical data
  results and presentation and summary of data validation results.
- CPG Modeling Team continued work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport using a version of SIT-SEDZL-J.
- CPG continued reviewing the Newark Bay physical water column monitoring data collected by Sommerfield and Chant.

#### (b) Results of Sampling and Tests

There are no results from this reporting period.



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## (c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will revise the draft LPR/NB PWCM QAPP per EPA comments.
- CPG will continue with the fall survey of the PWCM Program.
- CPG will continue planning activities for the Chemical Water Column Monitoring QAPP.
- CPG will continue preparation of the LRC data summary report.
- CPG will complete the Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP tissue composting memorandum for discussions with EPA.
- CPG will continue to implement the Benthic Sampling QAPP.
- CPG Modeling Team will continue work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport Model.
- CPG Modeling Team will participate in the Semi-Annual EPA/CPG Modeling Meeting scheduled for December 10, 2009.
- CPG will begin preparation of Risk Assessment Tech Memos as requested by EPA in comments on the approved Problem Formulation Document, Fish/Crab Tissue and Benthic Sampling QAPPs.

# (d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>

No problems encountered.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard F. Potter Project Coordinator Ms. S. Vaughn LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No.30 – October 2009 November 16, 2009 Page 5 of 5

cc: Pat Hick, EPA Office of Regional Counsel Alice Yeh, EPA
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel Lisa Baron, USACE
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